

AT THE STATE CAPITAL.

Important Decision.

Austin, Tex.—Col. John L. Peeler handed out the following to the press:

"The appellate courts of this state have decided that the Texas franchise act passed by the twenty-fifth legislature is unconstitutional as to foreign corporations engaged in interstate commerce. The suit to test this law was instituted in the district court of Travis county by H. T. Cottam & Co., limited, of New Orleans and a decision was rendered by the trial judge, Hon. R. E. Brooks, declaring the law void as to corporations of this class.

"The judgment was affirmed by the court of civil appeals at Austin on the 9th of November and the 8th of December the supreme court refused a writ of error thereby sustaining the judgments of the two lower courts. This is an important decision and means the loss of many thousands of dollar to the state.

Want Access.

Austin, Tex.—A. P. Bush, president of the Texas Cattle Raisers' association, was here. Speaking of the prospect of a market being opened up in Cuba for Texas cattle he stated the abolishing the duty on cattle in Cuba for the United States shipments had been presented to Secretary of Agriculture Wilson and the latter had assured him that he would make a personal effort to see such action accomplished. Mr. Bush stated that the Texas Cattle Raisers' association desires that Cuba be placed on the same basis as any other port of the United States as far as duty on cattle is concerned and that the duty be enforced on cattle from Mexico and other countries except the United States in Cuba."

Reports Exaggerated.

Austin, Tex.—State Health Officer Blunt stated that the reports that smallpox is raging to a very alarming extent at Cameron are exaggerated. He received a letter from Dr. Greer, the physician who has charge of the epidemic, stating that, while there had been a number of cases of the disease, six are now convalescent. The scourge is confined almost exclusively to colored people.

Cattle Proclamation.

Gov. Culberson has promulgated a live stock quarantine, of which the following is the substance:

"First. It is therefore ordered by the Live Stock Sanitary Commission of the state of Texas that from and after the 15th of December, 1898, to the 15th day of November, 1899, no cattle shall be transported by rail, shipped, driven or moved in any manner whatever from said area south and east of said line hereinafter described to any portion of Pecos county, situated on the north and west of said line, which said line is as follows: Beginning on the boundary line between Brewster and Pecos counties at a point where the roadbed of the Galveston, Houston and San Antonio railway crosses the same; thence down the center of said roadbed in an easterly direction to a point about one-half mile east of the town of Sanderson, in Pecos county, where the eastern boundary line of the pasture fence of said Hawthorne & Wilson crosses said roadbed; thence in a northeasterly course with said fence to the point where the said eastern boundary fence of said Hawthorne & Wilson pasture intersects the south boundary line

of the Dull pasture; thence west with the said south boundary line of the said Dull pasture to the southwest corner of survey No. 1, block No. 3 C. C. S. D. and R. G. N. G. Ry. Co. surveys, the same being the southwest corner of the Dull pasture; thence north twenty-nine miles along the west boundary fence of the Dull pasture to the northwest corner of the same; thence north about sixteen miles to the rocky brink of the Escondido canyon; thence in an easterly direction following the rocky brink of said Palisades about four miles to the point where the western boundary fence of the Johnson pasture intersects the said Palisades; thence in a course a little east of north along the western boundary fence of the Johnson pasture to the Pecos river; thence up said river, with its meanders, in a northwesterly direction to the point where the northwestern corner of Crockett county intersects it.

"Provided, however, that from the 15th of December, 1898, to the 15th of January, 1899, inclusive, cattle may be crossed over said line and into Pecos county, provided they have been inspected by a duly authorized inspector of this board and found by such inspector to be free from ticks and fever and in a healthy condition and certificates thereof and permit given by such inspector.

Midland Matters.

One result of the late severe weather was the freezing to death of two large oxen at Midland. The animals were in good condition and were in a barn yard well sheltered from the cold wind. They were the property of Col. C. C. Slaughter of Dallas.

Over seven inches of snow fell on the plains during the storm and it is almost certain that heavy losses of stock will be reported from remote ranges in the panhandle and northwest Texas during the coming week.

At the close of the carnival at Midland O. H. Nelson of the firm of Doyle & Nelson, large stock breeders in the panhandle, did a very handsome thing. He told Thomas J. Martin of Midland he was expecting a shipment of 200 thoroughbred Herefords from the north to be received at Kansas City for his ranch and that he would donate the pick of the lot to the Midland carnival committee, to be sold for the benefit of any deficiency that might occur when the finance committee balanced their accounts. Mr. Martin stated that he would make the bull net the management at least \$1000, as he proposed to raffie it off, and felt certain of securing at least that amount.

Large Pelican.

Some time in September Mr. Gilmore Sharpe killed a large pelican on Lytle lake, which he turned over to Mr. J. G. Lowden of the Lytle Water company. Mr. Lowden sent the bird to the Academy of Science, Chicago, with a request to classify and turn over to the taxidermist to be mounted and returned. The bird has been sent back to Abilene, with the statement that it is not only an unusually large pelican, but a rare specimen of its kind. It is one of the few of its species that have been killed in this part of the state. The bird, as mounted, has been put in a conspicuous place at Steffens & Lowden's bank at Abilene, and has attracted considerable attention.

With a rolling-pin a pantry man cracked the skull of Al Von Kalickstein at Beaumont.

Volunteer Signal Corps.

The first company Texas volunteer signal corps has been organized at Brenham with the following officers: Theodore Schirmacher, captain; Sam Rouse, first lieutenant; Lovie Rogers, second lieutenant; Ollie Carlisle secretary and treasurer. The company is composed of thirty men. The muster roll has been made out and forwarded to the adjutant general. He will supply the company with a complete equipment as soon as it can be had from the department at Washington. The equipment will consist of red banners with white squares in the center, and white banners with red centers, lanterns giving light to correspond with the colors of the banners, and heliographs. Capt. Schirmacher thinks heliography the most satisfactory method of signaling, but as this instrument can only be used in sunshine, then other methods must be resorted to in cloudy weather. The company will commence a course of systematic drilling and training immediately, the first being to familiarize themselves with the alphabet of the army code. After this alphabet has been mastered, both with flags and lanterns, then the heliograph will be used. Every member of the company carries both a flag and a lantern, must know the alphabet, and each must be proficient in the use of the heliograph.

There is a good deal of enthusiasm among the members of the company, and a pardonable pride felt in the fact that they are pioneers in this arm of military service, this being the only volunteer organization of the kind in the state, and, so far as Capt. Schirmacher knows, in the entire south.

To Beautify Grounds.

Strong recommendations will be made to the coming legislature for the improvement and beautifying of the capitol grounds at Austin, and an adequate appropriation for this work will be requested. The appearance of the grounds surrounding the magnificent capitol is the subject of adverse comment by every visitor to Austin. Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds J. R. Mobley has done his best with the limited means at his command to put the grounds in somewhat presentable shape. The recent rains have made the driveways in the grounds almost impassable, and they now resemble muddy country roads. The matter of improving and beautifying these grounds has come before every legislature ever since the completion of the \$3,000,000 building, but the members of the law-making bodies have taken such a view of the situation that nothing has ever been accomplished in the way of a suitable appropriation. It is expected that the next legislature will take a broader and more liberal view, and that steps will be taken to place the grounds in condition somewhat in keeping with the grand building which they surround.

Rev. Mr. Gill, rector of the Episcopal church at Brownville, mysteriously disappeared last week without coat or hat. He is also a Mason and that order is assisting in the search.

The laying of the cornerstone for the new high school building at Shreveport, La., took place with imposing ceremonies.

C. Medina was given a life sentence at Victoria for the murder of his wife.

S. L. Howard, a prominent farmer, died near Peoria.

Honored Sayers.

The house appropriations committee honored Representative Sayers, governor-elect of Texas, through a series of resolutions offered by Representative Bingham, Republican, of Pennsylvania. The resolutions were afterwards made a part of the house record. In substance, the resolutions state that Mr. Sayers as chairman and a member of the appropriations committee discharged his duties with untiring industry, zeal and conscientious regard for the public welfare, "proving himself a worthy successor of Thaddeus Stevens, J. A. Garfield and Samuel J. Randall." Also that Mr. Sayers' courtesy and fairness have won for him the esteem and confidence of his colleagues, "and in his new field of exalted public duty as chief magistrate of the great commonwealth of Texas we extend to him this expression, sincere and cordial, of our affection, respect and confidence."

For and Against Expansion.

In the senate on the 20th Mr. Teller advocated territorial expansion, asserting that there are no restrictions upon the rights of the United States to expand its borders. Representative Williams of the house committee on foreign affairs addressed the house in opposition to expansion. He contended that it would be a mistake to acquire the Philippines from a social, political and material standpoint. The agricultural appropriation bill passed the house without any material amendment. It carried \$3,698,392, or \$187,120 more than the current law.

Fatal Fire.

A fire in the handsome New York residence of C. H. Raymond caused three persons to lose their lives and several others to sustain serious injuries. The fire started in the basement and in a few minutes the entire lower part of the house was in flames. Mrs. Underwood, a sister of Mrs. Raymond, jumped from a third-story window and was killed. A Mr. Doerr was struck by Mrs. Underwood's body as she was falling and badly hurt. Mrs. Raymond fell out of a second-story window. Her night dress caught on a rung of a ladder and her body whirled around as it fell to the flagged area. She died in a few hours. Harriet Fee, a domestic, who went up stairs to awaken the family, was burned to death.

Killed by a Cook.

Corporal Wilson, the cook for company D, third Alabama regiment, at Anniston, Ala., shot and instantly killed Sergeant Charles Evans of the same company. The men had a quarrel in the morning, and when Evans appeared late for his share of the dinner Wilson reprimanded him and the trouble was renewed. Evans went to his tent for his gun, and when he returned, Wilson, who had also procured a Springfield, shot him through the head, killing him instantly.

President Diaz was given a grand ovation at Monterey on his arrival from the City of Mexico. Over 12,000 people marched in the procession which escorted him to the palace. He invited the official representatives of the United States and British governments resident at Monterey to seats on the reviewing stand.

The Confederate amendment received 56,791 votes to 53,060 against it, making a majority in its favor of 3731.

President at Savannah.

The president was tendered a welcome at Savannah, Ga., that was fully as enthusiastic as the receptions accorded him at Atlanta, Tuskegee and Montgomery. In twenty-seven carriages drawn by white horses the presidential party was driven through the principal streets of Georgia's seaport city and cheered by vast multitudes. Thousands of soldiers passed in review before the reviewing stand and watch his gallant men. In the afternoon President McKinley and party boarded a pilot boat and went down the Savannah river about ten miles. Whistles screeched, flags dipped and cheers from the thousands on the banks rent the air. The president stood on the starboard side of the boat waving his hat and handkerchief. A banquet, at which covers were laid for over 200 persons and at which several notable speeches were made, was given at night in the De Soto hotel. On Sunday morning President McKinley attended divine worship at one of the Methodist churches and in the afternoon witnessed a dress parade of troops.

Embassy Bombarded.

A Washington compositor declared war against Great Britain by throwing rocks at the British embassy in that city. Several costly glass doors and windows were ruined. A missile struck a daughter of Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, on one of her feet.

As the result of the explosion of a boiler in a sawmill near Marlin John Welch was killed, a kiln destroyed and the mill set on fire. Loss about \$1500.

In the parade in honor of the president at Savannah, Ga., the first Texas regiment's soldierly bearing and appearance made a most favorable appearance and the men were loudly cheered.

Representative Hull has introduced a bill in the house to give two months' extra pay to volunteer soldiers serving abroad and one month's pay for those serving at home.

Lieut. Hobson was tendered a grand reception at Louisville, Ky., while at Chicago the fair sex literally bombarded him with a deluge of kisses.

In the shafting of a gin near Tyler Will Norwood was killed. Every bone in his body was completely broken.

E. W. Merton has purchased the McKinney electric light plant from Lon Scott.

Fresno, Cal., had a \$175,000 dry goods fire.

By the collapse of a wall at a Chicago fire two firemen lost their lives.

Company A, third Texas, has arrived at Fort McIntosh, Tex.

A new building will at once be erected to take the place of the Methodist church, recently destroyed by fire at Bonham.

The Spanish government has agreed to pay the January coupon on the Cuban debt.

Bryan and Bailey held a conference at Washington